

State Water Resources Control Board

March 29, 2012

Proposed Phase 2 Bay-Delta Plan Workshops

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing a series of workshops for this Summer that will inform the Phase 2 comprehensive review and update of the Bay-Delta Plan¹. On January 24, 2012, a Notice of Preparation requesting comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the State Water Board's review of and potential modifications to the objectives contained in the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan was released.

The proposed workshops will be organized to facilitate expert scientific input on the selected topics. The information generated through the workshops will augment information developed through earlier reviews and will inform the State Water Board members and staff on what, if any, changes should be made to the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. The proposed workshop topics include:

- (1) Analytical Tools for Evaluating the Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects of the Bay-Delta Plan – including the CalSim II water supply model, DSM2 and RMA2 hydrodynamic models, Plexus hydropower model, and others as applicable;
- (2) Salmonids – including flow, cold water pool, habitat, and water project operational constraints needed to reasonably protect Central Valley steelhead, Sacramento River winter-run, Central Valley spring-run, Central Valley fall-run, and Central Valley late fall-run Chinook salmon and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors;
- (3) Pelagic Organisms– including flow, habitat, and water project operational constraints needed to reasonably protect pelagic species (including Delta smelt and longfin smelt) and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors; and
- (4) Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone – including the low salinity zone

¹ Phase 2 will examine whether changes are needed related to key issues identified in the 2009 Staff Report for the Periodic Review of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan (2009 Staff Report): (1) Delta outflow objectives, (2) export/inflow objectives, (3) Delta Cross Channel Gate closure objectives, (4) Suisun Marsh objectives; (5) potential new reverse flow objectives for Old and Middle Rivers; (6) potential new floodplain habitat flow objectives; (7) potential changes to the monitoring and special studies program, and (8) other potential changes to the program of implementation. The State Water Board will also consider other potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan that were not specifically addressed in the 2009 Staff Report, including issues that are identified through the scoping process. The State Water Board may also consider information that is produced as part of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) currently being developed.

needs of various estuarine species and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors, and other tools that can be used to measure and reasonably protect estuarine habitat.

A consultant for the State Water Board will organize and manage the workshops. Each workshop will include a panel of independent experts who will respond to technical questions concerning each topic.

State Water Board staff and its consultants will develop key questions for each workshop topic. Time will be provided for interested persons to provide comments on the specific workshop topic after the conclusion of the panel presentations and responses.

Further information on the proposed workshops, including a draft schedule, will be provided in the coming weeks. Please view the notice for this meeting at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/environmental_review/docs/notice_baydeltaplancompreview.pdf.